(b) and (c) At present, repair facility, except for very major repair, for most of the aircraft are available in the country. However manufacturing facility for Hansa-3 and Chetak/Cheetah type of aircraft/helicopter only are available in the country.

Gender discrimination in AI

4. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are disparities in norms and conditions pertaining to the women crew *vis-a-vis* the men crew onboard Air India flights;

(b) whether there is difference of standards on retirement age limit, medical check ups, etc;

(c) if so, whether it amounts to gender discrimination; and

(d) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) The Cabin Crew in Air India consists of both male and female categories. Air Hostesses form part of female cabin crew. The job functions performed by the male and female cabin crew on board the aircraft is as per the Cabin Crew Manual. Female cabin crew are treated as separate and distinct cadre from their male counterpart. The retirement age of both male and female cabin crew in Air India is 58 years. However airhostesses were being assigned flight duties only upto 50 years of age.

The Government have recently reviewed the matter and directed Air India that in view of the exigencies of the circumstances and in the interest of operations of Air India, the female cabin crew may be allowed flying duties up to the age of 58 years subject to general conditions prescribed in this regard.

Air service between Bhopal and Jabalpur

5. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to start Indian Airlines service between Bhopal and Jabalpur;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Airlines, has no plans to operate services between Bhopal and Jabalpur due to constraints of suitable type of aircraft in its fleet.

Enhancement of air services

6. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the frequency of flights to Bhopal;

(b) if so, by when additional flights are likely to resume; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to Indian Airlines, in view of commercial considerations and capacity constraints increase in frequency of flights to Bhopal is not feasible at present.

Air service from Vijayawada airport

7. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether air traffic to and fro Vijayawada airport in Andhra Pradesh has commenced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of air companies which are operating their flights from the said airport; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to make this airport airworthy for big aircrafts?